



National Center and State Collaborative

NCSC AA-AAS

English Language Arts- Reading

Grade 4 Sample Items

Section 1

We are going to read a story about a boy named Ben. After we read, you will be asked a question about the theme. Listen for the message of the story.

Ben's Present



Ben wants a dog. He thinks about dogs every day. In the morning, he begs his mom for a dog. His mom says dogs are a lot of work.



At night, he tells his dad that he will be good if he gets a dog. Ben's dad says that dogs cost a lot of money.



Ben's parents ask him what he wants. Ben says he wants a dog. He says he will walk the dog. He will feed the dog. He will play with the dog. He will pay for the dog's food.



Ben shows his parents he can take care of a dog. He watches a neighbor's dog for a week. He walks the dog.



He feeds the dog. He plays with the dog. Ben's parents see his hard work.



Then one morning, Ben hears a bark. He jumps out of bed. He smiles.



He runs down the stairs. He sees his gift. It is a cute, brown dog. Ben hugs the dog. The dog wags his tail. A smile comes across Ben's face. Ben got a dog!

Section 1 - Item 1

Remember, the theme is the message of the story.

What is the theme of this story?



having a lot of friends



showing you can take care of a pet



asking your parents for something

Section 1

We read about a boy named Ben. We are going to read part of the story again. Then you will answer a question. Listen for the present Ben gets.



He runs down the stairs. He sees his gift. It is a cute, brown dog. Ben hugs the dog. The dog wags his tail. A smile comes across Ben's face. Ben got a dog!

Section 1 - Item 2

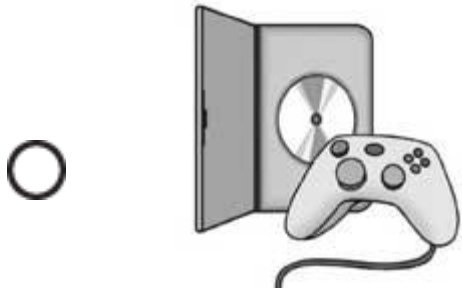
What did Ben get?



a bike



a dog



a video game